

LEAN ON ME

For Young Women In Harmony

Words and Music by BILL WITHERS

Arranged by JOEY MINSHALL

Moderate tempo (♩=80-84)

Tenor Lead

Some - times in our lives _____ we all have pain. _____ We all have sor -

Bari Bass

row. _____ But if we are wise _____ we know that there's _____ al - ways to - mor -

row. Lean on me _____ on me when you're not strong. _____ and I'll be your friend. _____

on me

The voice parts in barbershop harmony for women have different names and functions than they do in other SSAA vocal styles. The tenor part is equivalent to Soprano I but functions as a harmony part above the melody. The lead part (Soprano II) has the melody line. The baritone part (Alto I) fills in above and below the melody, and the bass part (Alto II) supplies the harmonic foundation (root or fifth) of the chord. The tenor sings the highest note in a chord, the bass the lowest, the lead the melody, and the baritone sings the all important missing note. Because one of the primary characteristics of barbershop music is its cone-shaped sound, the bass must sing with a broader tone quality than that used by the upper voices. She will usually sing with more volume than the other three parts. Feel free to adjust the key of this arrangement to suit the vocal strengths of your ensemble.

* A dashed line indicates that the melody note is moving to another voice part. An X indicates tenor note (S1) below lead (S2).

Lean On Me - YWIIH

— I'll help you car - ry on, — for it won't be long — 'til I'm gon - na need —

Musical notation for measures 11-14, featuring a treble and bass staff with lyrics: "I'll help you carry on, for it won't be long 'til I'm gonna need"

— some - bod - y to lean on — If there is a load —

Musical notation for measures 15-17, featuring a treble and bass staff with lyrics: "somebody to lean on. If there is a load"

a load to bear
— you have to bear — that you can't car - ry —

Musical notation for measures 18-20, featuring a treble and bass staff with lyrics: "a load to bear you have to bear that you can't carry"

I'm right up the road. — I'll share your load — if you just call —

Musical notation for measures 21-23, featuring a treble and bass staff with lyrics: "I'm right up the road. I'll share your load if you just call"

Lean On Me - YWIH

me. Lean on me when you're not strong and I'll be your friend

on me

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of musical notation, spanning measures 24 to 26. It features a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). Measure 24 starts with a vocal line containing the lyrics 'me. Lean on me'. Measure 25 continues with 'when you're not strong' and measure 26 with 'and I'll be your friend'. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

I'll help you carry on for it won't be long 'til I'm gonna need

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of musical notation, spanning measures 27 to 30. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'I'll help you carry on for it won't be long 'til I'm gonna need'. The piano accompaniment maintains the same rhythmic pattern as the previous system.

Hand claps ms.33-34
(see bottom of page 5.)

some - bod - y to lean on. You just call on me sis - ter, when

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of musical notation, spanning measures 31 to 33. The vocal line has the lyrics 'some - bod - y to lean on. You just call on me sis - ter, when'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same accompaniment. Measure 33 ends with a double bar line.

you need a hand. We all need some - bod - y to lean on. I just

Detailed description: This block contains the fourth system of musical notation, spanning measures 34 to 36. The vocal line has the lyrics 'you need a hand. We all need some - bod - y to lean on. I just'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same accompaniment.

Lean On Me - YWIIH

Hand claps ms. 37-38

Musical notation for measures 37-39. The system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Measure 37 contains the lyrics "might have a prob - lem that". Measure 38 contains "you'd un - der - stand." Measure 39 contains "We all — need some - bod - y to lean —". The music features a steady bass line and a melody with some syncopation.

Musical notation for measures 40-41. Measure 40 contains the lyrics "on me". Measure 41 contains "Lean on me — when you're not strong —". The melody continues with a consistent bass line.

Musical notation for measures 42-45. Measure 42 contains "— and I'll be your friend —". Measure 43 contains "I'll help you car -". Measure 44 contains "ry on, —". Measure 45 contains "for it won't be long —".

Musical notation for measures 46-48. Measure 46 contains "— 'til I'm gon - na need —". Measure 47 contains "some - bod - y to lean —". Measure 48 contains "on —".

Hand claps here to end.

Lean On Me - YWIIH

(Split lead section or lead solo.)

49 Call me when you need a friend. Call me

(Split bass section or bass solo.)

Oh, ba - by just

51 Call me when you need a friend Call me

52

I'm tel - lin' you

53 Call me Call me Call me!

54 55 56

Hand claps